



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application: John R. Liddicoat et al.
Serial No.: 09/760,222
Filing Date: 01/12/2001
For: TISSUE ANNULOPLASTY BAND AND APPARATUS
AND METHOD FOR FASHIONING, SIZING AND
IMPLANTING THE SAME
Group Art Unit: 3738
Examiner: Crystal M. Gilpin
Attorney's Docket No.: VIA-14

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

PETITION FOR AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND

Applicant hereby petitions for a three (3) month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Official Action mailed August 29, 2002 with respect to the above-identified patent application, thereby extending the time for response from September 29, 2002 to December 29, 2002.

A check in the amount of \$460.00 is enclosed to cover the cost of the petition fee. This petition fee has been calculated on the basis of Small Entity status.

In the event that any additional fees may be required to be paid in connection with this matter, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed for the convenience of the Office.

Thank you.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID, IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, ON:

December 27, 2002

(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

Scott R. Foster

(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

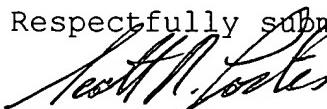
(SIGNATURE)

December 27, 2002

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

VIA14.EXT

Respectfully submitted,


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